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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
National Foreign Assessment Center

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24 March 1980

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Minesweeper Order of Battle in the Indian Ocean
and the Black Sea

1. The Soviets currently have two minesweepers in the Indian Ocean and there are 25 minesweepers in the Black Sea Fleet. Most of the minesweepers detailed to the Indian Ocean, however, normally come from the Pacific Fleet, which has 42 minesweepers.

2. It would probably take about 17 days for a mine-sweeper--traveling at a practical speed of advance of 9-10 kts--to transit from Sevastopol through the Suez Canal to the Strait of Hormuz. It takes about one day to transit the Suez Canal, and additional days could be required while waiting for a convoy to form--especially if the Egyptians wished to pose obstacles. It would take about 27 days, however, to bring minesweepers from Vladivostok, some 6,400 nm from the Persian Gulf.

This memorandum was prepared by the Office of Strategic Research, Regional Analysis Division, USSR/EE Branch.

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